

The Balladeer

Monthly newsletter of Acoustic Routes, Wellington's folk music club

Acoustic Routes

www.acousticroutes.org.nz



Winter solstice, Stonehenge Aotearoa, Carterton

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This newsletter can be printed out from a pdf located on the website

<http://acousticroutes.org.nz/news/the-balladeer/>

1. AR monthly concert featuring Rob Joass, Toil & Trouble, and Sean & Rosie O'Connor, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 22 June, 7:30 pm



Singer songwriter **Rob Joass** moved to New Zealand from his native Sydney over 30 years ago and has toured and released 10 albums with his bands Hobnail, Too Many Chiefs and The Shot Band, as well as 3 solo albums (currently working on a 4th). He has been a finalist at the NZ Music Awards three times (twice for best country song, once for best folk album) and has had songs covered by artists in New Zealand, Australia and Canada.

"...a songwriter's songwriter...beautifully done, understated, and allows the songs to breathe." 4/5 stars – music.net.nz

Toil and Trouble are a Wellington based trio comprising Jude Douglas (fiddle and vocals), Mary Hubble (flute and vocals) and Ron Craig (guitar and vocals). They play traditional and contemporary songs and tunes mainly with an English/Celtic flavour. Also included are a few American, Canadian, and antipodean numbers. The group are all long-time members of the Wellington folk scene.



Sean and Rosie O'Connor. Sean and his wife Amanda became a feature of the Kiwi folk scene in the nineties with their diverse folk pop Celtic originals, beautiful harmonies and fine guitar and flute playing. The late 2000s saw them on tour as a family band in NZ and overseas, until Amanda's sudden death in 2011.

In the last few years Sean has completed a solo album including songs written during the O'Connors' earlier years, their family tours, in response to Amanda's death and beyond. Rosie, his daughter, has a beautiful voice and a great ear for harmony. Expect great songs with heart and harmony.

Entry: \$15/\$10 for AR members. Cash only (no eftpos facilities).

2. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 10 Moana Road Plimmerton, Wednesday 14 June, 7pm

To help support the Plimmerton Boating Club, the open mic is now the second Wednesday of the month.

Spread the word.

Same Ole MC.
Roy McGuinness 021433878



3. Newtown Open Mic upstairs at The Office, Sundays 11 & 25 June, 5:15 - 8 pm



Newtown Acoustic Sound's "Open Mic", upstairs at The Office Bar in Riddiford Street, Newtown.

Contact: kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz, or newtownacousticsound@gmail.com

4. AR monthly singaround, Rimu Room, Johnsonville Community Hub, 33 Johnsonville Road, Monday 19 June, 7:30 pm

Bring songs, tunes or poems to share, or just come to join in. Go into the main room and the Rimu room is on the left. Note the address of the Community Hub.

Tea and coffee provided. Entry \$4. Third Monday of every month.



5. Truly an Aotearoa/New Zealand night for NZ Music Month; review by Janette Munneke

L.A.B. are touring in the States right now, and maybe they're even thinking "I wanna come home", but we had them right here in spirit, covered by our first act on Thursday - **Hot Tubs**. Hot Tubs went on to apply their nice round warm treatment to Ruru Karaitiana's song *Blue Smoke*, written on board a troop ship in 1940, and selling 10,000 copies in 1952. They followed that up with *Tahi Nei Taru Kino* by Paraire Tomoana (famous for writing *Pokarekare Ana*), at the time of the first world war. Hot Tubs is headed by Lynn Clark, and we weren't going to let them away without a rendition of *Send the boats away*, written by Lynn in the 1980s. About the ships

carrying plutonium (nuclear waste) through Pacific waters, that song was a kind of anthem for me back then, and it was great to sing along to the chorus (surprised at how many lyrics I remembered!), and to sing along to their closing number *The Lonely Blues Song* by Slim Dusty and Joy McKean.

Kevin Ikin and Susan Ellis were up next, also starting with a Māori flavour, with Kevin's moving song *Parihaka*. All of Kevin's set was self-penned, great to hear some I hadn't heard before, from the song about Bert and his West Coast air service from Hokitika to the Haast, to the train line from Napier to Gisborne – "I hear that train a-coming", or do I? Kevin finished the set with his song *The bank is not your friend* - love the lyric about the money being 'locked in the profit mine'.

Don Franks started his set with a trio of numbers by NZ greats. First, a lovely rendition of *Nga Iwi E* by Hirini Melbourne, a great song to sing along with. The poem *Down on my Luck* by ARD Fairburn set to music was followed by a ukulele instrumental, *White rabbit*, by NZ guitar legend Peter Posa. Then came a trio of Don's own philosophical greats, *The Aro Street route*, which referenced one of the regulars at our Holland street Friday night sessions, country music guitarist Bob McGuigan, a.k.a. Bob the bus driver, then a cautionary tale about horseshit being "just like money, no good in one big pile" (you've got to spread it out evenly before it can do some good), and finally, a song about a lost jandal – "without a foot to walk in it, it can't have gone too far".

Sage, Murray Kilpatrick (on the other side of the microphone this time) and Sue Rose, ably assisted by Susan Ellis on cello and fiddle, finished off the night in fine style. Starting with the "Gumdigger's Lament", an anonymous poem collected by E. L. Eyre and put to music by Neil Colquhoun about the grim life of some early NZers, they soon came a little closer to home with a song about Pauatahanui, jointly penned by Sue and Murray about a location close to their hearts. The rollicking *Wellington croc bike rag* followed – a true flight of fancy around the Wellington waterfront and beyond. And what a beautiful and fitting way to end the night – the soulful and lulling *Hine e hine*, written by Fanny Howie (also known by her stage name Princess Te Rangi Pai) in around 1907 and known to many of us as the "Goodnight Kiwi" song, performed with a great blend of lovely voices.

While doing some research for this review, I came across another lovely tribute to NZ music, *Gone but not forgotten*, a slideshow with music by Martha Louise, prepared for the Auckland Folk Festival January 2023 remembering Folk Legends and friends who are no longer with us. Definitely worth a look if you haven't seen it already.

[\(180\) Gone But Not Forgotten A Slideshow with music by Martha Louise - YouTube](#)

6. Balladeer music noticeboard

Where you can advertise your music-related items—lessons, instruments, gigs, band members wanted, etc.

a) **Auntie Social's Thirsty Night Music Club, Auntie Social Lounge, 4 Rintoul Street Newtown: Thursdays 1, 15, & 29 June, 8pm (free)**

Thursday 1 June: Yann le Dorre and Don Mackay
Thursday 15 June: Danica Bryant and Don Mackay
Thursday 29 June: Marmalady and Don Mackay

b) Songwriters Showcase, The Moon Bar, 167 Riddiford Street Newtown: Sundays 4 & 18 June, 7pm

Sunday 4 June: Showcase # 68, Dee, Keeva, and Planet
\$15 door, \$12 Eventfinda

Sunday 18 June: Showcase # 69, Haewai Collective, The Overdogs, and Elyssa Vulpes. \$15 door, \$12 Eventfinda

c) Up Close & Personal Plimmerton presents present 'Wandering Thyme', 21 Gordon Road Plimmerton, Saturday 24 June, 7:30 pm



Wandering Thyme is a folk/Americana family trio from Eugene, Oregon. Bob, Rene, and Cara perform original songs and covers featuring fiddle, banjo ukulele, guitar, and vocals. Catchy tunes and harmonies will have you tapping and humming along.

\$20.00 per person. BYO drinks and small plate for supper. Feel free to arrive from 6:30pm to mix and mingle.



Please contact Annie to book your place, 027 459 9376.

d) Up Close & Personal Plimmerton presents present Elisha Hobbs, 21 Gordon Road Plimmerton, Saturday 1 July, 7:30 pm

We are so excited to host Elisha. She blew us all away at Te Rangi this year. Her innate ability to mine her interior life for inspiration makes for a composition style which seizes your senses and stops you in your tracks. Prepare to be transported by up-and-coming New Zealand music at its finest.

\$20 per person. BYO drinks and a small plate to share for supper. Feel free to arrive from 6:30pm to mix and mingle.

Please contact Annie to book your place, 027 459 9376.

7. Want to perform?

The AR Committee would like to hear from you if you are interested in performing at our events, including support acts for our monthly concerts. Contact us at performers@acousticroutes.org.nz.



8. About AcousticRoutes

Acoustic Routes (Wellington Folk Centre Incorporated) is a club for people who enjoy playing and listening to folk and acoustic styles of music.

The fourth Thursday of the month generally features a concert, usually with a visiting artist and support acts from amongst our membership. Check the website or the Balladeer for updates about the venue.

Members get priority access to performance opportunities and can have input into the club's activities. To join, email treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz.

Acoustic Routes publishes this newsletter (The Balladeer) at the start of every month, and also an acoustic gig guide for the Wellington region (Acoustic Routes update). You can [subscribe online](#), or contact publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz.

9. Acoustic Routes contacts

President: Ruth Birnie president@acousticroutes.org.nz
<mailto:ruthlbirnie@gmail.com>

Correspondence: Kevin Ikin secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz

Treasurer/Membership: Peter Whiting treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz

Balladeer: editor Philippa Boy
balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz

Acoustic Routes update email: Kevin Ikin secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz

Performance opportunities: performers@acousticroutes.org.nz
<mailto:ruthlbirnie@gmail.com>

Postal address: PO Box 27-191 Marion Square, Wellington, New Zealand.

Website: www.acousticroutes.org.nz

10. Other regular folk events/contacts in the region – please check websites or email for updates

Trad Singing Session with Dave Barnes hosting

When: 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, from about 6.45pm

Where: The Welsh Dragon Bar, Wellington. This session celebrates unaccompanied singing in traditional style. Fine beer and food to be had at the bar.

Contact: Dave Barnes david.barnes@xtra.co.nz

Ceol Alba Scottish Music Club

When: 4th Friday of the month, 7.30 - 9.30pm. A club for playing and/or listening to (mostly) traditional Scottish music. Sheet music supplied or downloadable

Where: Lower Hutt.

Cost: \$5 per night

Contact: Lynne Scott, 04 565 0164 lynne@scott.gen.nz

Levin Folk Music Club

When: 2nd Friday of month, 7.30 pm, blackboard concert plus guest artist.

Entry: Members \$5, Non-Members \$10, Children \$3 (includes supper)

Club Night: 4th Friday of month, 7.30 pm \$2 Koha.

Where: Horowhenua Scottish Society Hall, cnr Bartholomew Rd and Middlesex St.

Website: www.levin-folk-music-club.org.nz

Mainly Acoustic Music Club

When: (Mostly) every 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm

Where: Mayfair Cafe, 116 Main Street, Upper Hutt

Contact: Mary Khalil 021 02314505 mary.khalil@xtra.co.nz

Club committee email: info@mainlyacoustic.co.nz

Website: <http://mainlyacoustic.co.nz/coming-attractions/>

Morris dancing: Dave Barnes <http://www.morrisdancing.org.nz/>

Pukerua Bay Folk Club

When: 1st Thursday of the month, 8pm (no club night in January)

Where: 9 Donlin Rd, Pukerua Bay

Contact: Murray or Julie Kilpatrick, (04) 239 9951, musicianmurray@gmail.com

Wellington Bluegrass Society

When: 3rd Friday of the month, 8pm

Where: 54 Richmond Street, Petone

Contact: Andrew Bicknell, (04) 477 0069, bluegrass@xtra.co.nz
<http://wellingtonbluegrass.net.nz/>

Wellington Scottish Fiddle Club

When: Varies, but mostly monthly around the first Sunday

Where: Depends on who is hosting it this time! A club for learning tunes in the traditional "by ear" style, it welcomes fiddlers of all levels.

Cost: Mostly free

Contact: Iain Matcham 04 568 8635, email iain@jumbletree.com